

WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

By F. A. YOUNG

The following table shows the average sea-level pressure for the month at a number of land stations on the coast and islands of the North Atlantic. The readings are for 8 a. m. 75th meridian time, and the departures are only approximate, as the normals were taken from the Pilot Chart and are based on Greenwich mean noon observations, which correspond to those taken at 7. a. m. 75th meridian time.

Station	Average pressure	Departure
	Inches	Inches
St. Johns, Newfoundland.....	29.90	-0.10
Nantucket.....	29.95	-0.06
Hatteras.....	29.99	-0.02
Key West.....	29.95	-0.03
New Orleans.....	29.99	+0.03
Swan Island.....	29.83	-0.04
Turks Island.....	30.00	0.00
Bermuda.....	30.10	+0.02
Horta, Azores.....	30.19	+0.08
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.77	-0.03
Valencia, Ireland.....	29.71	-0.24
London.....	29.81	-0.11

It will be seen from above table that the pressure at Lerwick was nearly normal, and at Horta slightly below, indicating that both the Icelandic low and North Atlantic high were fairly well developed. At Lerwick the barometric readings ranged from 29.08 inches on the 28th to 30.23 inches on the 14th, and at Horta from 29.66 inches on the 1st to 30.54 inches on the 10th.

Judging from reports received to date, the number of days with winds of gale force was greater than usual over the eastern section of the northern steamer lanes, while conditions were not far from normal over the middle and western sections.

Fog was unusually prevalent during the month over the region between the 60th meridian and New England coast, where it was reported on from 14 to 16 days. Fog also occurred on from 6 to 8 days over the eastern section of the steamer lanes, and on 2 days in the vicinity of the Azores.

On the 1st and 2d there was a well developed depression of limited extent central a short distance northwest of the Azores, and vessels in the northerly quadrants experienced moderate to strong easterly gales. On the 2d high pressure prevailed on the European coast, the barometer at Scilly Islands reading 30.19 inches. By the 3d it had fallen considerably and on that date there was an area of low pressure central about 300 miles west of the west coast of Ireland, that according to reports was not accompanied by winds of higher force than 5.

On the 3d a vessel near 38° N., 42° W., encountered a northerly wind, force 9, barometer 29.98 inches, but did not render a storm log, and other ships not far distant reported only moderate conditions.

On the 4th and 5th the European low had developed into a severe disturbance, and on both of these dates strong westerly to northwesterly gales, accompanied by hail prevailed over the region between the 45th and 55th parallels and the 10th and 25th meridians. By the 6th this low was over the Irish Sea and the storm area had contracted, although northerly gales were still reported from the westerly quadrants.

From the 7th to 9th the pressure was considerably above normal at the Azores and below on the coast of northern Europe. The unusually steep gradient, how-

ever, did not result in any abnormal conditions, as moderate winds were the rule over practically the entire ocean during this period.

On the 6th and 7th winds of gale force were encountered in the vicinity of the Canal Zone, as shown by storm report from the American S. S. *F. H. Hillman*, in the table.

From the 10th to 17th low pressure prevailed over the eastern section of the steamer lanes, where winds of gale force were encountered during this period, the storm area reaching its greatest extent on the 16th, when northerly gales prevailed over the region between the 50th and 60th parallels and 20th and 35th meridians.

From the 11th to 13th northerly to northeasterly gales accompanied by comparatively high barometric readings were reported by vessels between Madeira and Gibraltar.

From the 17th to 19th low pressure prevailed in the vicinity of Newfoundland and reports of moderate gales were received from vessels north of the 35th parallel west of the 60th meridian.

On the 20th there was apparently a slight depression about half way between the Bermudas and Newfoundland that moved slowly northward and on the 22d and 23d was over the latter island. On the 21st the center of this low, which was of very limited extent, was about 200 miles south of Halifax, where southwesterly winds of almost hurricane force were reported by the French S. S. *Honduras*, as shown in the table. Ships not over 100 to 200 miles from the *Honduras* on the 21st, recorded winds of force 1 to 4, and the land station at Sable Island, wind southeast, force 1, barometer 29.92 inches, which shows the highly concentrated nature of this disturbance.

On the 22d and 23d vessels in the vicinity of the Gulf of St. Lawrence encountered moderate northeasterly to southwesterly gales.

On the 22d there was a moderate low central near 50° N., 15° W., that drifted slowly eastward and on the 25th was over the British Isles, with moderate gales between the 20th meridian and European coast.

On the 24th there was apparently a slight depression in the Gulf of Mexico that moved northeastward along the American coast, and on the 25th was central near Hatteras. This low was not accompanied by heavy weather over an extensive area, although the American S. S. *Gulfight* experienced a southerly gale in the vicinity of Key West, as shown in table.

On the 26th there was a well defined disturbance central near 50° N., 25° W., that moved slowly eastward and was over the North Sea by the end of the month.

Charts VIII to XI give the conditions from the 27th to 30th, inclusive, and show how intermittent this disturbance was in character as on the 27th, 29th, and 30th the eastern section of the steamer lanes was swept by strong westerly gales that continued well into June, while on the 28th few storm reports were received from vessels in these waters.

On the 27th northeasterly gales were encountered off the east coast of Florida, as shown on Chart VIII.

GALES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND SOUTH PACIFIC OCEANS

Weather Reports received for May, 1925, contain mention of several gales that occurred in connection with cyclonic disturbances in the South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans during the month. These gales will be found listed in the accompanying table.—(A. J. McC.).